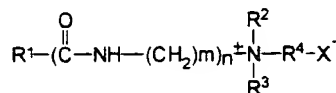


What is Claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
 - a) desquamation actives consisting essentially of:
 - (i) a safe and effective amount, preferably from 0.1% to 10% of a
- 5 zwitterionic surfactant having the structure:



- wherein R^1 is unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain alkyl having from 9 to 22 carbon atoms; m is an integer from 1 to 3; n is 0 or 1; R^2 and R^3 are, independently, alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, unsubstituted or mono-substituted with hydroxy; R^4 is saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched chain alkyl, unsubstituted or mono-substituted with hydroxy, having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms; and X is selected from the group consisting of CO_2 , SO_3 and SO_4 ; and
- 15 (ii) a safe and effective amount, preferably from 0.1% to 10% of salicylic acid; and
 - b) a topical carrier.
 2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein:
 - a) R^2 and R^3 are selected from the group consisting of CH_3 , $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$
 - 20 and $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$;
 - b) X is CO_2 or SO_3 ;
 - c) m is 2 or 3; and
 - d) R^4 has from 1 to 3 carbon atoms when X is CO_2 ; and R^4 has from 2 to 4 carbon atoms when X is SO_3 .
 - 25 3. The composition of any of Claim 1 or 2 wherein:
 - a) R^1 has from 11 to 18 carbon atoms;
 - b) R^2 and R^3 are CH_3 ; and
 - c) R^4 has 1 carbon atom when X is CO_2 ; and R^4 has 3 carbon atoms when X is SO_3 .
 - 30 4. The composition of any of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein:

- a) R^4 has 1 carbon atom;
b) X is CO_2 ;
c) m is 3, and
d) n is 1.
- 5 5. The composition of any of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein:
a) R^4 has 3 carbon atoms;
b) X is SO_3 ;
c) m is 3; and
d) n is 1.
- 10 6. The composition of any of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein:
a) the concentration of salicylic acid is from 0.2% to 5%;
b) the concentration of zwitterionic surfactant is from 0.2% to 5%; and
c) the composition further comprises from 0.2% to 5% of glycolic acid.
- 15 7. The composition of any of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the zwitterionic
surfactant is selected from the group consisting of behenyl betaine,
cocoamidopropyl betaine, cetyl propyl hydroxy sultaine and cetyl betaine,
preferably cetyl betaine.
- 20 8. Use of a composition according to any of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7,
for manufacture of a medicament for achieving desquamation of
mammalian skin wherein the medicament is to be applied topically to the
skin of a mammal in need of treatment.
- 25 9. Use of a composition according to any of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7,
for manufacture of a medicament for treating acne in mammalian skin
wherein the medicament is to be applied topically to the skin of a mammal
in need of treatment.
- 30 10. Use of a composition according to any Claims 8 or 9 wherein:
a) the amount of salicylic acid applied is from 0.004 mg/cm² skin to 0.1
mg/cm² skin; preferably from 0.02 mg/cm² skin to 0.06 mg/cm² skin; and
b) the amount of zwitterionic surfactant applied is from 0.004 mg/cm²
skin to 0.1 mg/cm² skin; preferably from 0.02 mg/cm² skin to 0.06 mg/cm²
skin.